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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM students awarded Watkins Scholarships" (1996). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 14191.
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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

June 5, 1996

UM STUDENTS AWARDED WATKINS SCHOLARSHIPS

MISSOULA —

Eight University of Montana—Missoula students have been awarded the Anna Davis Watkins and Gordon S. Watkins Scholarship for the 1996-97 academic year and will be honored by UM President George Dennison at a reception in the fall.

Each student will receive \$1,500, half in fall semester and half in spring semester. The scholarship is designed to help support the students' work on a senior thesis or project. Recipients must have a grade-point average of at least 3.4.

Scholarship recipients include Missoula students Kathy L. Breland, Laura Sue Smitherman and Daqi Tu. Breland, a math major with a minor in chemistry, has titled her project "A Cross-educational Investigation of the Expert-Novice Dichotomy in General Chemistry Problem Solving." Smitherman, a medical technology and microbiology major, will study "Cloning of an Immunodominant Surface Protein of *Bartonella bacilliformis*." Chemistry major Tu will study "Catalyzed Oxidation of Sulphur Dioxide by Oxygen."

Arlee resident Michelle M. Crepeau, an honors student with a math major and a minor in computer science, will study "Optimizing an Unconventional Schedule, a Linear Programming Model." Laura M. Sliter of Kalispell, an honors student with majors in German and political science and a minor in math, will survey German culture from 1918 to 1933.

The other recipients are Great Falls students Julie Ann Eklund and Laura Jean Feist, and

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Choteau resident Karen De Herman. Eklund, an anthropology major, will study "Preservation of Ancient Egyptian Tombs — Focus: KV5"; Feist, an honors student majoring in microbiology, will study "Using Mutation as a Means of Increasing Lactic Acid Production in *Rhizopus oryzae*"; and De Herman, a music and English literature major with a minor in classical civilizations, will study "The Changing Face of Hell in the Middle Ages."

The Watkins Scholarship program was established by a bequest from the Watkinses following their deaths in 1970. Gordon Watkins, a coal miner in Wales before immigrating to the United States in 1906, graduated from UM in 1914. He received a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918 and served as provost of the University of California at Riverside until his retirement in 1956. Anna Watkins was secretary to the UM president before receiving her bachelor's degree in English in 1915.

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